

Getting Connected:

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

New federal initiative to cut the cost of high-speed internet

What is the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program?

The EBB is a \$3.2 billion federal initiative to help Americans access the affordable, high-speed internet they need during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a short-term program that will end once the funds have been utilized.

What Is the Benefit?

- Up to \$50/month discount for high-speed internet services.
- Up to \$75/month discount for high-speed internet services for households on Tribal lands.
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

Do I Qualify?

Americans who may have experienced financial setbacks during the COVID-19 pandemic or are struggling to get by may be eligible for the EBB program, including those who:

- Qualify for the Lifeline program, as well as those who participate in certain federal assistance programs, such as Medicaid, SNAP, and SSI benefits.
- Experienced a substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020, and the household had a total income in 2020 below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers.
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, or did so in the 2019-2020 school year.
- Receives students aid in the form of federal Pell grants.
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

How Do I Sign Up?

- Eligible households will enroll through participating broadband providers or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

Where Do I Go to Learn More?

See the latest information and participating providers in your state:

- Website: aarp.org/EBB
- Text: **INTERNET to 22777**
- Call: **1-833-511-0311**



End the Digital Divide

If the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us anything, it's that access to high-speed internet is not a luxury; it's a necessity. And no one understands that more than the parents and educators who were forced to reinvent what it meant to go to school.

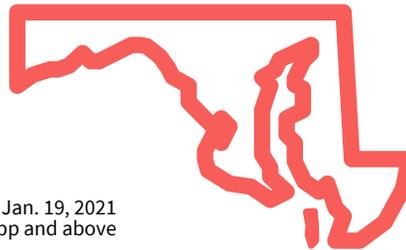
High-Speed Internet Deployment in MD

Total Population Unserved:

4%

Rural Population Unserved:

12%



Data as of December 2019, released by the FCC on Jan. 19, 2021
High-Speed Internet Deployment (ADSL, Fiber, Cable), 25/3 Mbp and above

Improve Communities Across the State

Without access to high-speed internet, communities suffer, losing out on opportunities. Marylanders without access to high-speed internet are losing out when it comes to:



Accessing virtual classrooms for kids and adults



Teleworking and finding new jobs



Connecting with family and friends



Finding new customers for their small business



Virtual visits with doctors and nurses

Helping Students of All Ages

Without a reliable, affordable high-speed internet connection where they live, too many Maryland students are being left behind. These students can also include adults looking to further their education or gain a new skill to be more competitive in the job market. AARP fought for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB) because too many Americans do not have access to the affordable, high-speed internet they need.

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